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Comments on PI - Geographic Research Interface

1. GD/BI is an all-source research unit whose mission and functions center on its expertise in foreign environments; Imagery Analysis Staff (IAS) is a specialized technical support unit whose mission and functions center on its skills in photo analysis.
2. GD covers an intelligence subject field; IAS provides a topic-oriented technical service.
3. Geographers routinely are equipped with a PI capability, and GD requires this capability as a basic component of its research methodology. Some PI analysts similarly have or develop an earth science capability, and IAS needs this capability as a basic part of its operation.
4. GD needs specialist assistance from IAS in problems requiring mensuration, installation identification, and interpretation of function. IAS needs specialist assistance from GD in area analysis and interpretation.
5. Photo signatures do not suffice by themselves in the research process; neither do area knowledge and the intense mining of documentary sources. A close association of IAS and GD is therefore desirable to assure a maximum-quality product.
6. "Imagery analysis" and "geographic research" are not wholly discrete from one another; there is inevitably some overlap between GD work and that of IAS, and therefore an opportunity for occasional duplication and difference of interpretation. Routine coordination and exchange of information on projects will minimize these problems.
7. As a general rule, projects that involve photo analysis are directed by GD when the problem essentially turns on the description and interpretation of environmental facts and relationships; the projects are directed by IAS when the problem essentially turns on an object and the analysis of its characteristics. Thus, for example, GD normally handles an evasion and survival study, while IAS handles the identification and measurement of a selected DE. In both cases, of course, each unit should draw on the other for inputs, advice, or checkout as desirable, taking advantage of the particular talents of individuals or the existence of specialized files and techniques.

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification
